

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for modulating activation of an NFkB signaling pathway in a cell comprising contacting a cell with a TRADE polypeptide agent in an amount sufficient to modulate the activation of an NFkB signaling pathway, wherein said TRADE polypeptide agent comprises the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide, said extracellular domain having at least 95% sequence identity to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: an epithelial cell, a ductal epithelial cell, and a bronchial epithelial cell.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the TRADE polypeptide agent is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the TRADE polypeptide agent consists essentially of said TRADE α polypeptide extracellular domain.
- 9-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge –C_H2-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the Fc portion of said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of γ 1, γ 2, γ 3, ϵ and α .

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α and Fc sequences.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the said TRADE polypeptide agent consists of a sequence at least 95% identical to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the said TRADE polypeptide agent consists essentially of a sequence at least 95% identical to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the said TRADE polypeptide agent comprises at least one of the domains corresponding to amino acids 29-63 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 72-114 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 114-139 of SEQ ID NO:2, or amino acids 137-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the said TRADE~~ polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the said TRADE~~ polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the said TRADE~~ polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide results in reduction of NFkB activity.

53. (Currently amended) A method for modulating NFkB activity in a cell comprising contacting a cell with a TRADE polypeptide agent comprising the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide, wherein said extracellular domain is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 1-504 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said polypeptide agent inhibits the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 such that NFkB activity in said cell is modulated.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a liver cell

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the said TRADE polypeptide agent is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide sequence is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge –C_H2-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the Fc portion of said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of γ 1, γ 2, γ 3, ϵ and α .

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α polypeptide sequences and Fc sequences.

63. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the said TRADE polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the said TRADE polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein contacting said cell with said TRADE polypeptide agent results in reduction of NFkB activity.